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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

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COUNTRY USSR (Krasnoyarsk Kray)

DATE DISTR. 9 May 1955

SUBJECT Industrial and Mining Activities near Norilsk

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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIALCOUNTRY USSR REPORTTOPIC Industrial and Mining Activities near NorilskEVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED  25X1DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED  DATE PREPARED 25 January 1955 25X1REFERENCES  25X1PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)  25X1REMARKS  25X1

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1. The town of Norilsk ( $69^{\circ}18'N/99^{\circ}09'E$ ) was founded in 1935 after the discovery of mineral resources by Otto Schmidt, a polar explorer of German origin. The town is located about 105 km by rail east of the town of Dudinka ( $69^{\circ}27'N/86^{\circ}18'E$ ) on the Yenisei River. Dudinka is a major transloading point for all goods shipped on the Yenisei River and it is also connected to the main railroad lines in Western Siberia. A narrow-gauge railroad line connected Norilsk and Dudinka. In 1952, work was started on the construction of a Soviet-gauge railroad line between the two towns. The new line was to be completed during 1954. 25X1
2. Norilsk is essentially a settlement of convicts and discharged former forced laborers. The town and its most important industrial installations are located in a river valley surrounded by barren ridges. Boggy tundra surrounds the town area and the belt of woods begins about 400 km to the south. The highest elevation near Norilsk is the Shitikha Mt (1,400 meters). Prior to about 1938, hard coal mining was done alongside some gold washing. In 1938, work was started on the opening up of non-ferrous ore mines. According to Soviet experts, the hard coal deposits available in the district are very rich and would allow rational exploitation for a long time. The coal deposits are near the surface so that extensive mine installations are not required. The largest mine which produced about one third of the coal mined in the district was about 18 km northeast of Norilsk near Zayerkan. The mountain ridges in the vicinity of Norilsk are rich in ore which is said to contain iron, copper, lead, cobalt, nickel, zinc, manganese and uranium. In mid-1953, most of the ore was mined in the Medvyeshka ridge, immediately southeast of the town. Most of the ore was obtained by open pit mining. Mines No 1, 18, 34 and 36 produced nickel, iron, and copper ore. Rich copper ore deposits were opened up on the north side of the Norilsk basin at Mt. Subgora, near a copper smelter completed in 1952. Uranium ore was also mined in the vicinity. Gold mining was discontinued some time before.
3. After 1935, many industrial enterprises were erected in the Norilsk area. In 1938, a TEZ I thermo-electrical power station was put into operation. By 1942, a second power station, the TEZ II plant, was in existence. 25X1 This power station was equipped with five turbines, and another three turbines were added in 1948. The two power stations served the industrial

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installations in the vicinity, the town of Norilsk and other settlements in the district; they also supplied steam for heating purposes. In mid-1953, the TEZ II power station consumed approximately 550 tons of coal daily. Industrial installations available at and near Norilsk included two iron foundries, three iron and/or steel processing plants and a combined coking and chemical plant. In 1949, work on the erection of an ore dressing plant was started southeast of the town at the foot of the Medystroy ridge. This installation was enlarged in mid-1953. The Medystroy copper smelter was built between 1950 and 1952 at the northern edge of the Norilsk basin. An additional number of ore processing and also chemical plants on which information was not available existed in the vicinity of Norilsk. Information on the work force of the industrial installations existing at and near Norilsk was not available. Most of the workers were detained in 18 forced labor camps. Ten camps for men housed from 3,500 to 4,000 persons. Approximately 8,000 men were detained in Camp No 6. Each of the seven camps for women detained about 2,000 persons. The convicts worked from 10 to 12 hours daily. They were in poor health and about 15 percent were unable to work at any given time. A very high percentage of the convicts came from the Baltic states and Germany. Most of the Soviet citizens in these camps were Caucasians and White Russians. In some cases, sick convicts were sent to a recreation home at Tayeshna, a place about 100 km north of Krasnoyarsk. About 12,000 released deportees also lived at Norilsk.

4. The forced labor camps and the industrial installations in the Norilsk area were guarded by MVD troops under the command of General Semenov (fnu) who had his headquarters in Krasnoyarsk.

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